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County accessibility page 2 Skyline Dance pages 8 + 9 Friends and Family Fest page 13

Tortoise tales
Snowflake Meadows volunteer Rhianna Laidla watches over Mortimer as he cruises around their Magic Festival Fundraiser held on Saturday, June 6. Despite the rain, the event had many visitors. /THOMAS SMITH staff

Hope United set to shutter in Norland

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

It is a known fact that attendance to churches is on the decline.

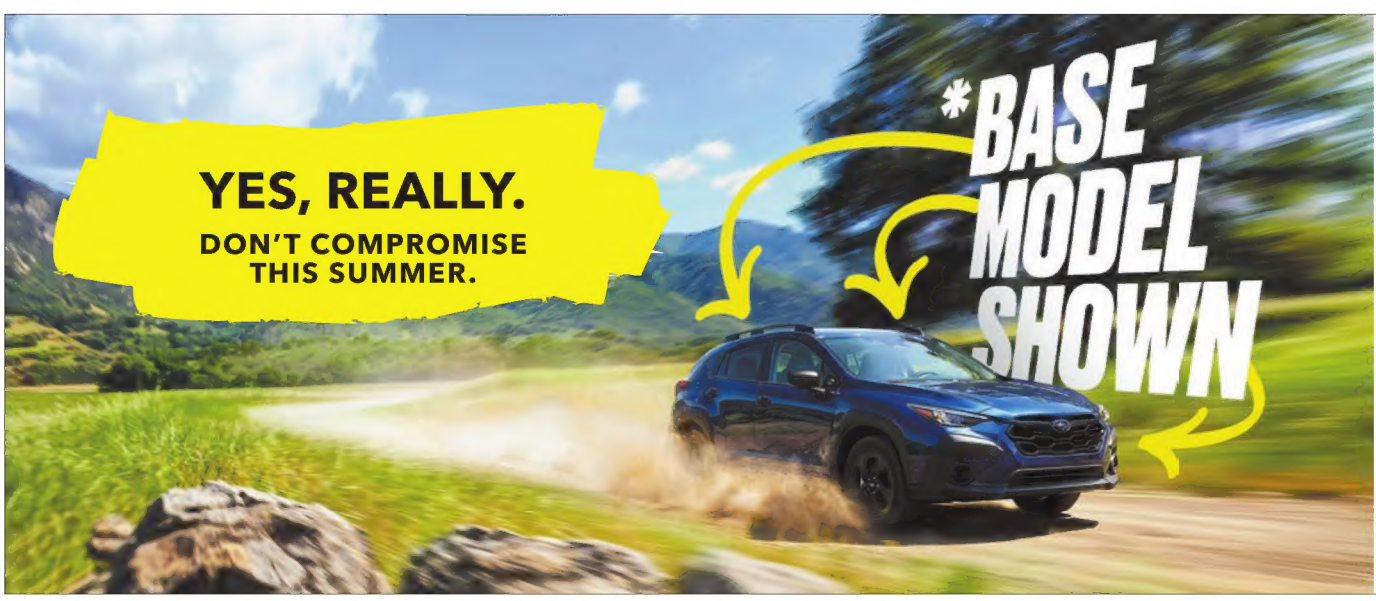
Following the fates of Maple Lake United, Ingoldsby United, and Zion United, Hope United Church in Norland will soon be hosting its last sermon.

Without a preacher, Reverend Max Ward extended his offerings and began preaching there in January of 2023. While at the beginning it was twice per month, it soon increased to three sermons per month.

With Ward's homebase in Minden, the Norland-based congregation paid for him to drive to the community while they were looking for their own full-time clergy. This was a shared ministry. While Ward served Highland Hills United Church in Minden, many duties fell to the congregation's committee in the interim without their own director.

"They had been without a regular

see CHURCH page 12



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The impressive dock made by local contractor Matt Reil, to accommodate a local who is navigating mobility challenges. The dock opened up an opportunity for conversations and questions around accessibility in the Haliburton Highlands. /submitted

Thinking outside the box for accessibility

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

A local cottage-owner has found a way to keep his happy place accessible through the years.

Roger Karam and his wife, Nayla, have been coming to their cottage on Blue Hawk Lake since 2008. In a little cottage built in the early 2000s, the owners have been mindfully renovating to accommodate accessibility challenges.

With a motor neuron disorder that makes walking difficult, Karam was faced with the challenge of how to get from the cottage to the water. The property is on a steep incline, and with stairs not an option for the owner, he and his wife opted to get creative.

"I needed a ramp to go all the way down," he said, "It took a couple weeks to measure and make it happen, but we figured it out."

For Karam, he wasn't about to let access slow him down from the place he loves the most. With over 600 lakes in Haliburton County, and an aging population of both locals and cottagers, accessible waterfronts is a topic that has been coming up as of late.

Gooderham-based contractor Matt Reil was the builder for Karam's ramp. With a design that zig zags from cottage to shore, Karam believes it is the first of its kind in the county. "I've been in the trades for over 20 years and I've never seen anything like it," agreed Reil. "I've built ramps for out-buildings and things like that, but never anything right down to the water."

With 14 landings in place, the ramp is meticulously designed to have widened corners to accommodate wheelchair access. Reil took an elevation test to ensure the build was possible before he broke ground, and gradually built between the 34 feet from cottage to dock. "He explained to me what he wanted," said Reil, "and we started at the top of the hill and worked our way all the way to the bottom."

The Haliburton Legion Branch 129 was recently celebrated for their commitment to accessibility in their offerings. Their award was presented as a part of the County of Haliburton's first ever Accessibility Awards during County council. /submitted

While the contractor started work in August of last year, the build was completed just last week, with details and railings installed and ready for the coming summer season. "We love the area," said Karam, "and it's a beautiful lake, so the idea of moving never really entered the conversation. We put a lot of effort into making it a home."

With the recently celebrated accessibility awards, Sue Tiffin, the director of community outreach for the County, noted the need for allowing access across the region. "Sometimes people don't realize when something isn't accessible," she explained. "Accessibility can mean many different things, and it's not a one size fits all for everyone."

Angelica Ingram, the manager of tourism for Haliburton County, is eager to see new builds and developments locally that prioritize accessibility. "I think it's great to see things like this," she said. "It's nice to see the strides made in accessibility, especially from a tourism perspective."

Ingram noted that beyond the tourism destinations, the uneven ground and topography of the region doesn't always lend itself to accessible features. "It's quite an undertaking to make these things accessible," she said. "So we always appreciate when these efforts are being made."

Making sites available to all members of the public has been a top priority for a number of tourism initiatives in recent years. Ingram noted that the highly popular Wolf Centre based at Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve has just completed a number of renovations, one of which was to add an accessible washroom to the main floor. "Accessibility can mean so many things," said Ingram. "It can be ramps, but it's also the volume of music, the lights, the sensory pieces. And as much as we can, we will advocate for this."

With National Accessibility Week running from May 31 until June 6, the County of Haliburton has reminded the public of their priorities. On June 3, staff and members of council donned red shirts to raise awareness. "It is a day when people across Canada come together and wear red in schools, workplaces and spaces everywhere in order to create a visible display of solidarity," reads the County statement, "to show their support for persons and families of those who are living with disabilities, celebrate the achievements of people living with disabilities, and to pledge their commitment to help create a fully accessible and inclusive society that honours and values the contributions of people of all abilities in all aspects of life in Canada."

Ingram noted that a big part of accessibility across the region is to make all parts of the community - from lakes to stores to parks - available for every member of the public. "It's about dignity," she said, "and putting these features in place for the public who needs them, so that everyone can have that same level of dignity when experiencing Haliburton County."

Close call acts as reminder for cold water safety

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

A recent trip to the area left visitor Lisa Kannakko with a chill she won't soon forget.

Kannakko was exploring the Oxtongue River in a double kayak with her partner in mid-May. While the trip started off enjoyable, about a quarter of the way in, the paddler discovered a tourist who had capsized into the chilly waters.

"Warm spring temperatures can create a false sense of safety around Ontario's lakes," said Kannakko, "while the water itself remains dangerously cold enough to cause hypothermia, cold water shock, and drowning within minutes."

While Kannakko was able to pull the paddler to safety, the incident had shaken her, and she began thinking about cold water safety in the area. "We can't exactly go out on the water and check every boat or watercraft throughout the day," she said, "but there must be a way to raise awareness around this topic and save lives."

Kannakko continued her paddle that day, and greeted a number of homeowners along the riverside during the adventure. "One such man shared that he was a third-generation inhabitant of a beautiful old wooden cabin built in 1943, which his grandfather purchased in 1946," she said. "When we told him about the man we had just pulled from the lake, he said he had seen all kinds of boating mishaps involving tourists throughout his lifetime along the river. That detail struck me deeply, because it suggests this is not an isolated event, but something that has likely been happening for generations in these tourism regions."

As someone born and raised in Canada, Kannakko believes that she has been properly educated on the basics of survival. But she fears that these innate teachings are not translated to visitors and new Canadians. "As kids growing up in Canada, we had to learn these basic survival skills: canoeing, cold water safety, and hypothermia," she said. "But for visitors coming from other places, the messaging is that Canada is a safe place; no alligators, no sharks. Yet drowning is a very real danger these tourists who visit Canada face on our lakes and in our national parks. Why are there not better safety measures in place to protect our visitors?"

Kannakko noted that the man she saved during her paddling trip had been wearing a life jacket, which she credits to the reason he survived. She shared that he had been in the cold water for about 15 minutes by the time she and her boyfriend had arrived at the scene. "He could barely swim anymore," she recalled, "and had clearly been trying desperately to climb back into his canoe. In the process, the overturned canoe had sunk to the bottom of the lake beneath him. His paddle had drifted 100 yards away. His emergency kit had floated 200 yards in the other direction. His wife and daughter sat helpless nearby in another canoe, on the phone with 911, clearly terrified and unsure what to do."

Kannakko said that the item that impacted her the most was how at first glance, the situation did not appear critical. "Even my boyfriend, who is from a milder climate, did not fully understand how serious the situation was until we physically had the man in our grasp and started bringing him to shore," she said. "It would have been easy to keep paddling past him, as we might walk past a stranger on the street of a big city."

As they pulled the man ashore, they began yelling for 911. "I don't think people were indifferent," said Kannakko, "I think many simply did not understand how quickly cold water can become life-threatening. They had been half watching nonchalantly from the comforts of their lakeview living rooms, but none had moved towards helping in any way, clearly busy with their own lives inside."

Kannakko noted a language barrier with the stranger, and how that may have played a part in the safety training. "The man himself was trying hard to stay calm and composed for his family, but by the time we reached him, he was in rough condition and had very little language skill to communicate except for 'help me'," she recalled.

Weeks after the incident, Kannakko is still shaken. She has reached out to a number of news agencies and organizations in an effort to raise awareness around the topic. She also fears that the popularity around cold plunges has come without education and awareness. While she herself practices cold therapy in a controlled environment, if done improperly, the health trend could have tragic consequences. "Cold plunges and icy lake swims have become so culturally normalized that people underestimate how serious cold water really is," said Kannakko, "Hypothermia and cold-water shock happen much faster than most people realize."

Kannakko hopes that by sharing her story, it encourages others to think twice about boating safety, and reminds tourism operators who offer aquatic options to ensure proper practices on the water.

"Tourists come to Canada from all over the world," she said. "We don't speak the same languages but we are here to help. We should all be here to help - to clearly help remove hazards, as we would hope to be helped if we visited any other country on the planet. There are enough tragedies unfolding worldwide, so why not help where we can?"

Local artist aims to start conversations

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

It's no secret that the current political climate is tense. Between the rate at which we receive information and the bygone days of societal standards, sometimes the future can feel bleak.

That's why artist Laurie O'Reilly has turned to her craft. "The kind of thinking about what we're doing wrong has occupied me for quite some time," she said, "and it's only getting worse,"

O'Reilly has recently launched her show, titled *21st Century Follies,* which is a glimpse into the dark corners of the world. A play on well-known Francisco de Goya sketch entitled *The Follies,* the West Guilford-based artist has created over 20 pieces depicting the state of the world.

From sculptures built with plastic bags to waxen figures glued to their phones, a wide variety of mediums have been used to share the stories. While some pieces have clear-cut messaging around gun control or women's rights, others depict layered messaging around wars, famine, and climate change.

"These aren't the types of pieces that people buy to put behind their couch," said O'Reilly. "It's all too dramatic. But it gives people an opportunity to move in, and to have a bigger conversation."

O'Reilly first went to school for sciences, but she has early memories around her love of art. She would doodle on her bedframe and tuck it behind her pillows, or etch drawings during class time. After she graduated from the sciences, she then went on to study fine arts, and continued to explore her craft. While oil painting and ink sketches were her early mediums of choice, she's branched out to explore sculpting, collage, and poetry. "Whatever can tell the story," she said.

Many of her pieces depict the lives of children. "They're the most vulnerable," she said. "We are all so overwhelmed by reality. We need to find something we hope will help."

While her works err on the side of sadness, O'Reilly shared that she's never received a negative comment about them, with countless pieces on display in galleries across North America. "People thank me for putting them out there," she said. "People like to talk about it."

21st Century Follies will be on display at 1513 Eagle Lake Road until June 28. The gallery is open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday.

Artist Laurie O'Reilly has just set up her newest show, *21st Century Follies,* which depicts the highs and lows of societies around the world. With images featuring everything from cell phone addictions to climate change, O'Reilly hopes to start conversations around broader topics that plague the planet. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to
emily@haliburtonpress.com

Hal High grad celebrated with Terry Fox Humanitarian Award

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Some people spend their entire lives trying to figure out their place in the world.

And others figure it out in high school.

Minden local and Haliburton Highlands Secondary student Aurora Wesley has been named one of 15 recipients across Canada for this year's Terry Fox Humanitarian Award. As one of Canada's most prestigious scholarships, the award recognizes young people who demonstrate exceptional humanitarianism, community leadership, academic excellence and involvement in sport.

Wesley first heard about the scholarship from her guidance teacher, Brett Caputo. "The application is pretty extensive," explained the Hal High student, noting she needed to include an essay, multiple forms, letters of recommendations, and her school transcripts.

Following her submission, she was invited to Toronto for an additional interview in April, and two weeks later, she found out she had won.

Wesley was working on her homework when she received a phone call from none other than Kirsten Fox, the eldest niece of Canadian icon, Terry Fox. "I started crying," she recalled. "After so much work, I was really honoured to get that call from her."

Haliburton has been home for Wesley since she was one-year-old. At the age of 11, she organized her first fundraiser, inspired by the loss of her godmother to lung cancer. The young student successfully raised over $1,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society through a school-wide awareness campaign and local media coverage.

When she started high school, Wesley immediately joined the Interact Club; a school organization dedicated to "Service Above Self" as a branch of the Rotary Club. Internationally, she supports a partner school in India through annual fundraising, and a pen pal program that fosters cross-cultural connection. Locally, Wesley continues to contribute to her community through varying initiatives, including the creation of a school outdoor classroom and pollinator garden, and advocacy for clean water access in northern Indigenous communities through

Minden local and Haliburton Highlands Secondary School student Aurora Wesley has just been named one of the 15 recipients of the Terry Fox Humanitarian Award. The prestigious award recognizes exceptional students across Canada. /submitted

national fundraising efforts.

But in her senior year of school, Wesley's family dynamic suddenly shifted, and her family faced immediate financial hardship. "It was a full circle moment for me," she said, "it allowed me to put myself in the situation of a lot of the people I've been trying to help."

Experiencing this vulnerability firsthand shifted her perspective, but instead of slowing down, Wesley pushed herself even harder, coordinating multiple food drives, holiday hampers, and community support so that no other family would feel the same hurt she went through.

Wesley is winding down her senior year at Hal High, and will be graduating at the end of the month. She plans to study business administration at Western University, and wants to pursue a career in healthcare policy development.

But Haliburton will always be home. "I think there's no better place to grow up," said Wesley. "I feel very lucky."

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HCSA reports one of the best years on record

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

In spite of the recent summer temperatures, sledders across the county and beyond are still rejoicing from an extended sledding season.

"It was a good, old-fashioned winter," said Haliburton County Snowmobile Association (HSCA) volunteer John Enright.

One of the best seasons on record, the season lasted over 19 weeks, with a few days being lost due to inclement weather. A steady sprinkling of snow was just what the groomers wished for this year.

With four groomers this season, 1,863 hours of grooming kept the trails clean and clear of the 163 centimetres of snow that fell from November to April.

The season was major for many reasons, with one of the highlights being the fact that two women joined the HCSA's team of groomers this year for the first time ever.

"It was a real watershed moment. It only took us 55 years to get girl power," said Enright. "They gave us exceptional results with good quality trails."

One of the ladies, Shayla van Tol, received recognition as Rookie of the Year at their annual AGM this past May.

"Keeping the groomers moving challenged us deeply because of all the snow and maintenance issues," said Enright.

Not unlike a Formula One team, the HCSA relied on a crew of mechanics to keep their groomers on the trails, often at extensive hours.

Keeping up with the mechanics of their equipment was one of their biggest challenges of the year, says Enright.

Every year, the HCSA donated two dollars per hour groomed along the Rail Trail portion of their trails. This season, $2,000 was donated to the Minden Urgent Care Clinic, operated by the Kawartha North Family Health Team.

This past season marks the last season with Neil Vanderstoop in the presidency role. Announcing his retirement, Vanderstoop plans on remaining with the HCSA as a director, and will assist with the incoming president.

The new president will be nominated by the board and voted on in the coming weeks. Fortunately, in the decade that Vanderstoop has been involved with the HCSA, he has seen tremendous growth in their membership and how the club is run.

With a current roster of over 120 volunteers, the club has been continuously growing by increasing its community presence, and through social channels like their Facebook page, local radio stations, and newspapers. Another reason for the influx in volunteers is the beautiful winter weather.

"Snow creates snowmobiling," said Enright.

While the weather was favourable, low water levels meant that the floating bridge was not put in Minden this season. While the bridge shortage meant sledders had to drive along the road, the constant snow allowed for manoeuvrability through downtown Minden. While not an enjoyable situation for either sledders or drivers, there were no issues reported from this diversion.

With over 163 centimetres of snow falling over the winter months, this snowmobile season has been one for the books, with only a select few days shutting down trails due to inclement weather. /submitted

"As a volunteer, you work so hard for 12 months of the year," said Enright. During the winter, it is time for volunteers to get out on the trails that they worked so hard at. With clearing trees, fixing the landscape, and adding signage, the winter keeps volunteers busy through both sledding and making sure the trails are clear.

"The HCSA's trails are just like my kids," said Enright. "I love them all the same."

Maintaining 390 kilometres is no simple task, with the HCSA being one of the largest snowmobiling clubs by area in Ontario.

With trails stretching from Kinmount to Muskoka, there is a lot of land to cover. The HCSA is grateful to have such a fantastic volunteer base, local business supporters, and sledders that purchase a trail permit. Vanderstoop says that the club is thriving. One potential change to encourage the growth is to allow people to 'adopt' certain sections of the HCSA trails to maintain.

The former president added that every volunteer in the club brings their own strengths to the team.

To the incoming president, he recommends letting others speak, listen, and to step in to make decisions only when it is most necessary. With knowledgeable and friendly folks filling the club, the HCSA is in great hands for the future, no matter who is elected.

This year, the HCSA's biggest goal is to build the bridge along Trail 9, the trail connecting the HCSA to the Paudash Trailblazers. The old B112 trail is to be reopened and renamed for next season.

According to the HCSA, every year during the winter, snowmobiling brings in millions of dollars in spenders paying for accommodations, food, and gas.

The organization would like to thank all of their landowners for their generosity and support towards sledding in the county.

Sledding permits will be going on sale Oct. 1 this year.

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The kids are alright

IT'S THAT time of year again. June is forever the month of whirlwind obligations. Graduations, ceremonies, dances, recitals, tournaments, races, open houses.

Every day there's another note from the school about an upcoming event. And if public school isn't enough, we also mix in the winding down of extra-curriculars, nice weather, and buzzing kids.

But as I looked up from the pile of both personal and professional commitments, I realized the joy of celebrating these kids.

Editorial

Emily Stonehouse

I spent some time speaking with Aurora Wesley this past week. She's graduating high school this month, but has spent her entire adolescence giving back. Between cancer fundraisers, supporting a school in India, clean water initiatives, and local food programs, her impact has spanned far beyond her years.

A traumatic twist in her senior year flipped Aurora's life upside down, and suddenly she was on the receiving end of food banks and holiday hampers.

But she never slowed down.

If anything, she kicked it into high gear, now knowing firsthand what challenges really felt like, and decided she wanted to do everything she could to prevent others from experiencing what she had felt.

These kids are alright.

When we look at the state of the world, we're quick to forget that our words, our thoughts, our experiences, can all cloud the sky of a kid just starting out.

There's a whole world ahead of them, and while many adults are doing their part to burn this planet to absolute ashes, we have to remember the next generation.

While stigmas and stereotypes stick and swirl to the adults of tomorrow (and I am sure some may be justified), we can't be the bullies of the ones who will be taking care of us in the future. The ones who we will need to solve our problems, to mend our fences, to build our bridges.

These kids are alright.

I have been privileged to watch the local school graduations for the past few years, and while it feels like a whirlwind, I truly appreciate every moment I am there.

It's never a quick in and out photo op. I stay from start to finish. Clap for every grad. Cheer for every student.

Because over the years, I've seen that these kids care. They see a world ahead of them not yet clouded by fear and judgement and pain and taxes. They see opportunity and excitement and the sunrise of a new day.

So as we go into graduation time, let's remember that it's not our place to clip the winds of anyone wanting to fly. These kids are alright, and they'll soar right through the clouds.

It's Pollan season

I AM in danger of becoming a fan-girl of Michael Pollan, he who famously said 'Eat Food. Not too much. Mostly plants.' Not because of his stance on food, but to figure out what being alive means. I need to clarify my thoughts in this AI era.

Pollan's most recent book, *A World Appears: a Journey into Consciousness* (Penguin, 2026) demonstrates, again, his orderly, self-reflective exploration of a very complex question. He's no penny-anti journalist, but founder in 2020 and head honcho at the UCBerkley Centre for the Science of Psychedelics, a position which allows him to roam the world and trade thoughts with leading scientists and thinkers.

Poke, Peel

Pair, Ponder

Fay Martin

So what differentiates being alive from not being alive? There's dead, the easily identifiable state of having lost an essence that signifies life. In police shows, it's the touch of a finger on the neck: the pulse is the essence. In real life, it's more complicated.

If the lost essence is not heart pumping, blood flowing, what is it? Pollan traces the foundations of where we are now. (a) Galileo divided the world into primary qualities, objective elements that could be quantified, and secondary qualities, subjective aspects like sensory perceptions. The first he claimed for scientific exploration, and the second he left (a self-preserving move) to philosophers and religion. (b) Descartes, the 'I think, therefore I am' guy, likewise, identified 'matter stuff' and 'mind stuff', the latter which only humans had. This gave him permission to do vivisections (no mind, no feelings) and more generally, for humans to assert dominion over lesser creatures and ruthlessly exploit nature. Pollan concludes 'By subtracting subjective experience from 'the real world', five hundred years of reductive science and philosophical dualism have inadvertently elevated consciousness, unmoored from nature, into something very much like magic.'

Our name for subjective experience is sentience, the ability to perceive and feel things. Which includes a lot more than humans. Plants. Trees. Pets. Octopi. Bacteria. Viruses. Maybe not rocks. Water? Pollan doesn't discuss it, but we here talk about keeping it healthy and it healing itself ...

Because science has clung to the solidarity of 'matter stuff' and shied away from the tougher question of how 'mind stuff' works, we are not as smart as we need to be to figure out where machines who 'think' fit into the matter/mind world. The fundamental, and perhaps existential, question is whether machines that can 'think' faster and better than humans can have a conscience.

So what is a conscience? I cannot, in good conscience, say I know the answer (which is why I'm reading the book.) 'In good conscience', as that phrase is used, implies an ethical, value-based judgement. Metacognition, me thinking about my thoughts. (The very thing Descartes said only humans have, because he wasn't interested in how trees find water and mycelia send messages and viruses outsmart vaccines.)

The AI guys say they can program their computers to have conscience because they feed it the value-based food they have scraped from the musings of humans. That certainty seems based in 'As the twig is bend, so grows the tree', attributed to Alexander Pope in 1732. A twinge of truth, but only just. (C'mon, computer guys, get with the times!).

What we who live in the real world know is that the land of conscience is a land of unending uncertainty. We hardly ever know for sure that our conscious choices were in fact the right ones. We may even question if, in a reality whose complexity we know we cannot fully comprehend, there is a right choice.

But we also know that we must make choices, that life is a series of choices, each more or less confident and clear. My old friend Paulo Freire, in the first part of his teaching, took a beating from Pollan. Freire says that having an 'I' that can 'do', identify plus agency, is what differentiates man from lesser creatures, but Pollan demolishes that argument. The second part of Freire's stance stands, however – that life is a two-step of acting on reflection and reflecting on action. I think that is conscience in action.

And that is, I think, what the smartest AI we can produce cannot do, iterative as it may be. So I don't think AI can have a conscience.

That said, I haven't finished Pollan's book yet, and I haven't yet got to my main reason for delving in, so there'll be more.

points of view

Mulching

UP TILL this weekend, I thought the word "mulching" referred to the way I eat potato chips. And, frankly, I preferred it that way.

Unfortunately, this weekend I learned that mulching is a process that only sounds simple. Basically, you put - and pardon me for the technical gardener words – "mulch" over your garden bed, presumably so that the earthworms you gather for fishing smell like cedar shavings.

But who can be sure?

My ordeal began when Jenn asked me if I would go with her to buy some mulch – which I immediately agreed to, but again, only because I thought it had something to do with potato chips.

So, you can imagine how distraught I was when we pulled into the garden centre.

Especially after I found out that the only chips they sold there came from a buffalo or some other big animal.

Jenn, who is expert in sensing my confusion, explained that mulch is a material you throw on top of perfectly good soil to ensure that the moisture in it does not evaporate – which is another way of saying we're going to ruin perfectly good mud.

Loon Tales

Steve Galea

It also suppresses weeds, moderates the temperature for the plants that grow through it and shields the soil from eroding.

And, not to belabour the point, but it makes catching earth worms more challenging too.

"So, we're just going to throw mulch over our garden beds all willy nilly?" I asked suspiciously.

"No," she said. "After we dump it, we're going to rake it to create an even covering."

Mulch is not heavy, so it seemed like I was getting away with one of those easy gardening jobs.

What I forgot was that we didn't have any garden beds prepared yet. This explained the 32 bags of top soil, four bags of sheep manure, and other things that my mom once forbade me from playing in. We were going to have to make something to throw the mulch on.

This also meant, when we got home, we had to rake out the two unused garden beds, then collect enough stones from the downhill part of our property and bring them uphill so we could – without any discernible stone masonry abilities at all – create a stone edge around the two garden beds Jenn wanted to rehabilitate.

So, after moving approximately enough stones to build a scale replica of the Great Pyramid of Giza, Jenn directed me to unload the 32 bags of soil from our vehicle and spread them over the two garden beds she wanted to make.

This went very smoothly until she said I needed to empty the soil from the bags too.

After that, we soaked the soil. But not before I found our hose and hose nozzle and discovered that our old nozzle needed replacing. This prompted a trip to the gardening section of our local store, so I could choose a new hose nozzle while not making eye contact with the guys who were there to buy power tools.

When I got home, we soaked the garden beds, and I honestly thought I was finished.

But Jenn said I wasn't, and then corrected my questioning reply by saying, "No, it's actually sheep manure."

Minutes later I had spread four bags of that across the garden beds too.

It was only then that I had the privilege of spreading mulch over it all.

All this is to say I did not have a relaxing Sunday. In fact, I'd say it was too-mulch-uous.

pic *of the* past

Children and youth on the steps of St. Margaret's Anglican Church in Wilberforce in the late 1920s. Leaders in the foreground are deaconers Annie Taylor and Mable (Mrs. Walter) Clark on left. /FILE

88 and strong

OUR BODIES are meant to move. Movement is not something we simply do to stay fit, it is a fundamental part of being alive. Every day our bodies need us to move, stretch, breathe and engage with life. When we move regularly we feel stronger, more confident, more energized, and more connected to ourselves.

Recently, the 88-year-old mother of a friend dropped into one of my qigong classes while she was visiting. She immediately caught my attention. She was strong, agile, had good balance and was confident in her body. She was eager to learn and moved with a sense of ease that many people younger than her would struggle to find. It was evident that she has spent many years caring for her body through movement. She shared with our class that she has been practicing tai chi three times a week for many years, and the benefits were visible in every move she made.

Tales from the great

Green meadow

Lynda Shadbolt

Her presence was a powerful reminder that movement is investing in our future selves. The body responds to what we consistently do. When we move every day, we maintain strength, flexibility, balance, and coordination. More importantly, we develop trust in our bodies. We move through life with greater confidence and resilience.

I love the ancient Chinese practices of tai chi and qigong because they remind us to slow down and move with awareness. In a world that often encourages multitasking and rushing, these practices invite us to be present. They teach us to listen to our bodies, and to cultivate both softness and strength. We are not simply exercising muscles, we are developing a strong body that can hold our formless dimension- our spirit, our awareness and our vitality.

In Chinese medicine, qi is the word for life force energy. Gong means work or cultivation. Qigong, therefore, means working with or cultivating our life energy. Through mindful movement, breath and intention, we encourage qi to flow effortlessly and freely throughout the whole body. When the qi flows well, we feel vibrant, healthy and alive.

We often think of qi as something we have or don't have, but qigong teaches that qi can be cultivated. After all, qi is what makes our hearts beat and our stomach digest food. It is the force that animates all living things. It is what makes flowers grow and birds sing and the sun rise each morning. There is an abundance of qi around us and in us. Through movement we learn how to access it and work in harmony with it.

Moving every day does not have to mean intense workouts or strenuous activity. It can be a walk in nature, a gentle stretching practice, a few minutes of tai chi or qigong. The important thing is that we have to keep moving. Our bodies are designed for it. When we move with awareness and consistency, we nourish not only our physical health but also our energy, confidence, and joy for life.

Dance fever

Dancers of all ages took to the stage at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion this past weekend as Skyline Dance Studios celebrated their annual year-end event. All four shows were nearly sold out. /TIM YANO staff photographer

letters to the editor

A tribute to Murray

To the Editor,

Murray Fearrey will be remembered for many years to come for his presence in the community, respect for taxpayers, and determination to serve his constituents. My colleagues and I will also remember him for his unique style and relentless focus on getting things done.

My first encounter with Murray was about 10 years ago. At the time, Haliburton Forest had a very strained relationship with the municipality. It was messy and litigious; the details don't matter now. Within minutes of meeting each other, Murray had set aside the past and proposed a course correction. We were grateful for his practical approach towards a tough situation. That meeting set the tone for our relationship over the next decade.

A few times each year, I would call Murray to share an update or ask for advice. He always answered – at any time of the day, and on any day of the week. We would jump straight into the matter at hand. There was no beating around the bush. If small talk happened at all, it was brief and only after we had figured out whatever it was that needed figuring out. I would be surprised if we ever had a phone call that lasted more than 10 minutes.

Some people may have found his manner to be callous, but I deeply respected him for it: Murray listened thoughtfully, then responded clearly. He was focused on getting things done for our community, not gossiping with constituents like me!

On behalf of my colleagues at Haliburton Forest, we are grateful to have worked with Murray Fearrey for so long. We extend our condolences to his family and colleagues, and we join the rest of the community in celebrating his incredible legacy as the leader of our municipality.

Malcolm Cockwell, Managing Director
Haliburton Forest & Wild Life Reserve Ltd.

OUT AND ABOUT IN HALIBURTON BY: Tanner Holman

Minden Memories

With summer upon us, the beach will be a popular location for those wishing to enjoy the sun and sand. These young ladies were doing just that in the 1920s when this photo was taken. Audrey Bedlington (left) is seen with Jesse McNeill and Frances Robin somewhere on Gull Lake, likely at the Lake Association's annual regatta. /Courtesy of Minden Hills Cultural Centre

HALIBURTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Book of the Week

Shanghai, 1911. Lisan Liu is thrilled to become secretary to Caroline Stanton, the wealthy new mistress of Lennox Manor. But the estate carries the shadow of a former owner's suicide, and before long, Lisan's childhood nightmares return alongside unsettling visions of a woman in red.

As Lisan grows increasingly drawn to the mysterious gardener Yao, Caroline's new life in China begins to unravel when an unwelcome guest threatens to expose secrets from her past. Meanwhile, questions surrounding Lisan's own hidden identity pull her deeper into the manor's dark history.

With strange occurrences mounting and Lennox Manor seeming unwilling to let go of its dead, both women are forced to confront truths that could destroy everything they know.

The Fourth Princess by Janie Chang is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library. Visit haliburtonlibrary.ca to place a hold or learn more.

Dancing days

With each show running nearly three hours, dancers performed a variety of ballet, tap, acro, hip hop, and lyrical pieces. The studio offers both recreational and competitive classes, with the show featuring a combination of both. The local dancers will be breaking for the summer months, with the exception of competitive dancers participating in upcoming boot camps. /TIM YANO staff photographer

HALIBURTON COUNTY FAIR

Minden Fairgrounds

June 13th, 2026

PRESENTED BY THE MINDEN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY *SINCE 1864*

EVENTS

8:30am	Fairgrounds open
8:30am	Light Horse Show
9am – 5pm	Vendors, Artisans
9am – 11am	Re/Max Balloon Rides (weather permitting)
10am – 2pm	Pockets Face Painting
10am	Chainsaw Artist
10am	Pony Pulls
11am – 4pm	Zoo to You
11am – 4pm	Little Stirrups
3pm	Auction
3:30pm	Horse Pulls (follows auction)

Times Subject to Change

CURLING CLUB

Open 9am-5pm

Exhibits

Displays

Demonstrations

Vendors

MAIN STAGE

LIVE MUSIC
1pm – 5pm

Mike Pollard
Cara Smith
Too Country

FOOD & DRINK

- Beer Tent – Hosted by Mulligans
- Elliott's Chunky Fries – Elliot's Catering
- Minden Agricultural Society Food Booth – Open All Day
  Beef on the Bun

THINGS TO DO THROUGHOUT THE DAY

- Brick Fun Zone - Lego
- Hereford Cattle Exhibit
- Minden Agricultural Society 50/50 Draw
- Dalrymple Rabbitry
- Kawartha Dairy Ice Cream
- Smokey the Bear + Ministry of Natural Resources
- Bouncy Castle – Air Bounce Adventures
- Farmers Association
- Paint The Bus
- O.P.P., Minden Fire Department, EMS
- Haliburton Rotary Club Draw SUV Tickets
- Fur Harvester

ADMISSION

Adults: $10

Kids ages 6-12: $5

Kids 5 & under: Free

All kids events included in admission

ITEMS TO BRING

- Lawn Chairs
- Bug Spray
- Rain Gear
- Sunscreen/Hat
- Cash (limited vendor debit/credit)

CAMPING

$25 per trailer – plus fair admission(s) per person

Limited Hydro – First Come, First Served

Arrival: Thursday, June 11 – 8:30am

Departure: Sunday, June 14 – 11am

Gooderham Bakehouse; a dream in the woods

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Carie Wright retired from her career in social work, and quickly moved to the country to open her own bakery. The popular destination has confirmed that the community is in support of her work. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

We've all seen the movie.

A city dweller commits her career to corporate life. When that chapter closes, she moves to a small town, befriends the community, and opens up a bakery.

But while we may know the plot, Carie Wright is living it.

Wright recently opened the Gooderham Bakehouse off Glamor Lake Road. She and her wife, Char, purchased the property in 2021, and have spent the past few years building up their dream home.

But this wasn't always the final vision. "I worked in social work for the City of London," said Wright, noting her past chapters. "And it was stressful. It's a hard job. I knew I had to find something else."

Baking was always a form of stress relief for her. "Char used to joke that she could tell how my day was by how much baking stuff was on the counter when she got home," chuckled Wright.

Upon her retirement from the career in 2025, the couple officially moved to the community. "Once we had a shell, we sold our house in London to facilitate the build," explained Wright. "And I started working on a business plan."

Wright had been looking for property since the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, but nothing was quite the right fit. One day, while she was browsing, she spotted 2098 Glamor Lake Road. "We hopped in the car that same day, put on snowshoes, and went to check it out," said Wright. "We had never even heard of Gooderham before, but we're so, so happy that we've settled here."

The decision to open a bakery came easily. When Wright was in Grade 9, she had to do a marketing project, where she developed Muffins and More. "It was always part of me," she laughed.

But a brick and mortar location didn't seem feasible with the ongoing house build. While she looked around for locations that may work, she made the decision to pivot, and offer home baking … right in her home.

With a Health Unit approval confirmed in May, the Gooderham Bakehouse was officially open for business. Wright welcomes visitors to her log cabin in the woods, the sprawling kitchen artfully laid out with natural wooden tones and hues in calming teals and greys.

And within a few weeks, it's become a destination. "I haven't heard a single person complain about the drive," said the baker. "I couldn't believe the amount of people who came out. The community support is unbelievable."

With scones, biscuits, pies, butter tarts, loaves, bagels, and more, the Gooderham Bakehouse is currently open on Saturdays, with the occasional Friday opening. Wright suggests calling ahead at 705-457-6454 to confirm your order, or visit the business on Facebook for updated hours.

"I just feel so much lighter," she said, as she reflected on her past few weeks of business, and the new life she's living, baking in a little cabin in the woods. "I'm home, I'm doing something I enjoy every day. We knew we wanted to be fully immersed in whatever community we were in, and I think we're doing that."

Notice
(Applicant – Eikerman)

In the matter of the *Municipal Act* and in the matter of a proposed By-law of the Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East to close, stop-up and convey certain portions of a Original Shore Road Allowance along the shore of **Salerno Lake,** more particularly hereinafter described.

Notice Is Hereby Given, pursuant to the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, and the Municipal Procedures, that the Township Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East proposes to consider and if deemed advisable, to pass at a virtual meeting on **Tuesday, June 23, 2026,** 9:30 a.m., a By-Law to close, stop-up and convey to the adjacent land owners the following described lands:

Part of the Original Shore Road Allowance in Front of Lot 2, Concession 4, Glamorgan, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as Parts 1 and 2 on Plan of Survey 19R-11238, made by **Bishop Geyer Surveying Inc., completed January 21, 2026** *(Part 2 being the flooded portion to be retained by the Municipality of Highlands East).*

The Plan of Survey 19R-11238 is available to you for inspection by you making an appointment at the Municipality of Highlands East offices, Wilberforce, Ontario.

The above-described lands, by resolution, have been declared to be surplus. If you wish to attend the virtual meeting, please call or e-mail the Municipal Clerk prior to the day of the public meeting so you can be provided with a link or phone number for the meeting. If you do not have the capability to attend a virtual meeting, please provide written comments to the Municipal Clerk prior to the public meeting.

Any person or his or her counsel, solicitor or agent who attends the virtual meeting shall be afforded an opportunity to make representations in respect of the within matter.

And Take Further Notice that if the public wishes to participate regarding the purchase of Shoreline Road Allowance please contact the Municipal Clerk.

Dated at the Municipality of Highlands East, Wilberforce, Ontario this 2nd day of June, 2026.

Robyn Rogers, Municipal Clerk
Box 295, 2249 Loop Road,
WILBERFORCE, ON K0L 3C0
rrogers@highlandseast.ca
(705) 448-2981

Compassionate Hearts
Community Cancer Support Circle

COMMUNITY CANCER SUPPORT CIRCLE

For people living with a cancer diagnosis and for caregivers

A welcoming and supportive space to connect, share, and find encouragement with others who understand.

3RD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Brooksong Retreat & Cancer Support Centre
1150 Garden Gate Drive, Haliburton

Participation is free of cost

Please register by calling or emailing:

Brooksong Retreat & Cancer Support Centre
(705) 754-2966 • nancy@brooksong.ca

OR

Haliburton Highlands Health Services
(705) 457-2941 Ext 2265 • amann@hhhs.ca

Brooksong RETREAT & CANCER SUPPORT CENTRE

HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS HEALTH SERVICES

Church closure a regular pattern locally

from page 1

clergy person for a number of years," said Ward.

Over those years, the size of Hope United's Sunday congregation remained around 10 to 15 people.

"The number of people hasn't changed a whole lot over the years since I have been here," said Ward. "When I started, there was a deficit budget."

With shortcomings to the church's coffers, the reserve funds for operating the facility slowly depleted. Now, Ward says that the money is fully gone.

Over the years, Hope United was known for its drive thru pie sales held on the long weekend in Norland, with cars hurriedly winding through the driveway to pick up a frozen pie.

"It was a good fundraiser," said Ward. "It is something to do together as a little church or family activity."

Coming in on a Tuesday, bakers would prepare for the pie sales on the long weekend.

Ward says that as soon as he started his sermons at Hope United, there were conversations about the future of the church.

Unfortunately, this fate comes at a surprise to no one, says Ward.

Last year, the congregation was given a questionnaire to fill out for the church, to analyze its strengths and weaknesses.

That questionnaire highlighted two key issues: the lack of growth in the congregation, and the lack of money in their financial account.

It was this past February when the church's treasurer told the group that there was no money left.

"We had to decide what to do. We pursued the idea of having a partner come in and use the space as a thrift store to use the building and share the cost, but that didn't turn out," said Ward. "There is really one option left."

The only options would be for the expenses to fall entirely on the congregation, or to close.

The church members chose to disband the church. This disbanding dissolves the congregation, allowing the members to attend which church they then choose.

"Some of them are hoping to come up to Highlands Hills, which is great for Highland Hills," said Ward. "Some that live farther South than Norland, it is a bit of a hike to get up to Minden at 9:30, so they are probably going to go to a different church."

Come the winter, Ward says that attendance plummets with the poor weather. For those that cannot attend in person, Ward offers a virtual sermon from Highland Hills United Church on Sundays for people to attend through Zoom.

"That has been a big help to Highland Hills," he said.

Streaming their sermon online keeps their congregation together, and has the added benefit of drawing in people from throughout the province and beyond.

Ward says that his church is able to maintain attendance while people are travelling, not feeling well, and when the weather is not cooperative.

The church regularly has around 20 virtual attendees. Some attendees are from local nursing homes, allowing multiple people to tune into his sermons.

The congregation of Hope United was very generous, but with an aging congregation, it became very difficult to host large fundraising events that inject big amounts of money.

Paying from their own pockets could only last so long.

"There are a lot of cultural shifts that have gone on over the last fifty years," said Ward. He says that due to a reduction in family sizes and more women in the workforce, there are less volunteers and resources that churches can rely on.

"When these cultural shifts happen, it is hard for the church to keep up," said Ward.

Unlike the United Church of Canada, Ward says that the Baptist Church has put a lot of effort and resources into creating children's programming and support of young families. Fostering an interest in the church at a young age has paid off in dividends.

"It has paid off now. It is too late," said Ward. "Already in senior age, they would be trying to attract families that are not already connected to their church."

Trying to attract new families from outside the church to join is a near impossible task, says Ward. In the past, joining your local church community was necessary for having a social life. Nowadays, social media plays a huge part in social connection. The church is no longer integral to life in rural Ontario.

The closure of Hope United Church is not due to one sole reason, says Ward.

"I like how it is a close family feel," said Ward. "Every Sunday, a lunch is served,"

Sitting down with the church as a congregational family will be one of his favourite memories.

A closing service for Hope United will be on Sunday, June 28. At that service, the land and building will be deconsecrated and it will no longer be a United Church.

Both the Hope United congregation and Highland Hills United congregation will be present at the ceremony, filling its pews for the final sermon.

The option to rent the church and its space was discussed, but without the resources to take care of the land and building, the church's fate is ultimately the decision of the United Church of Canada

"I cannot picture them doing that, because they don't have anyone willing to do it," said Ward.

Like other churches such as Ingoldsby, Maple Lake, and Zion, the land and building of Hope United Church will likely be going for sale. It will be a lengthy process in renovating the church and preparing it to sell. With it being zoned a community facility, it needs to be rezoned, which takes both time and money.

Ward says that there has been communication between him and the City of Kawartha Lakes conservation team. When reached out for comment, the City of Kawartha Lakes said that they cannot disclose any plans for items until they are donated.

The furniture and items from the church, including the pulpit, will have a new life at a United Church in Orillia. A fire had gutted the church, providing the perfect opportunity to divert Hope United's furniture from the landfill.

Looking towards the future, Ward says that the goal of Highland Hills United is to increase their congregation numbers through the Affirm United process. Becoming a more welcoming church will hopefully bring new members or deter its members from leaving.

He also says that the church plans on learning new music to keep sermons engaging.

Rotary rock stars

Minden's Rotarians pose for a photo at their annual Rotary Gala Dinner. The event was held at the Minden Community Centre on Saturday, June 6, and raised awareness and funds for the community programming the local Rotary Club is dedicated to. /THOMAS SMITH staff

‘F’ is for family and friends in Minden

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

There is a lot going on around Minden, if you know where to look.

It won’t be hard to find in September, when the Family and Friends Festival (F.A.F. Festival) comes to town.

For festival organizer Amy Benjamin, the F.A.F. Festival isn’t her first rodeo, as she brings over 10 years of experience in planning festivals.

With a career in running large events, Minden was her number one choice for the first community to receive a F.A.F. Festival.

“My goal is to give back to the community,” said Benjamin. “The fairgrounds are perfect. The community is perfect.”

Recognizing the tightness of the community in Minden, Benjamin has made great strides in transparency and openness regarding the event. Throughout the year, she has hosted meet and greet events for the local community to meet her and ask any questions they have around the event.

The event is a celebration of community, culture and fun. With a vendor alley, food trucks, entertainment zone, a fun zone for kids, and karaoke, there is something for all members of the family to do at the event.

On Friday, Always in Boots will be hosting a dancing lesson. Friday’s music lineup has a country theme with country line dancing and Dixie Freight train at 6 p.m.

Saturday will be filled with classic rock with Black Fly Band from 12:30 to 2 p.m., karaoke from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Dixie Freight Train and Coming of Age to rock out the evening. Sunday will have a blended set of both country and rock.

On all three days, DJ Sogrates will be playing a set to kickoff the day’s celebrations.

The event has been organized by a team of eight people, and expects to draw around 2,000 attendees. With their date of Sept. 18 to 20, Benjamin hopes to draw a cottaging crowd and families before they return to school.

One thing is certain, it will be the biggest send off to the summer that Minden Hills has to offer.

Over the past eight months, Benjamin says that Minden Hills council has been exceptional with providing everything needed for the event.

If the event goes well, Benjamin plans on expanding the event to Owen Sound, Shelburne, and returning to Minden next year.

Alcohol will be sold onsite at the event. As an entirely fenced off festival, alcohol will not be restricted to a beer tent. However, this is not BYOB and no outside food or drink is permitted to be brought in.

With an admission price of $3, 10 per cent of all money raised from the event will be donated to the Breakfast Club of Canada.

There is such a big need for getting kid’s food. Food insecurity affects kids in every community, says Benjamin.

Beyond bringing a fun event for the community, she wants to share that joy to hungry kids who need a hand.

“Come on out, have a good time and relax,” said Benjamin.

The F.A.F. Festival runs from Sept. 18 to 20 at the Minden Fairgrounds. The gate will be open from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday, 12 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday, and 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

Benjamin has confirmed that there will be O.P.P. assisting to control traffic and she requests that vehicles leave through Scotch Line Road to keep traffic flowing smoothly.

More information can be found at the website faffestival.com.

Ties to the past with Minden exhibit

IVY KATZ

Journalist

Prolific national artist Michèle Karch-Ackerman returns to Agnes Jamieson gallery for a third time with her most recent installation: “Museum of Her”. “I feel very cozy here and naturally, organically suited to this place,” says Karch-Ackerman of her jubilance at being showcased again at the Minden location, with “Museum of Her” being added to the gallery’s permanent collection after this run.

Karch-Ackerman has had exhibits across Ontario and Canada since the 1980s. After graduating from Ontario College of Design in Toronto (now known as OCAD University). “I had to figure out how to do art full-time. I settled down in the country, outside of Toronto, got a house, and it became possible,” she said, of living rurally and leaving the city behind. Karch-Ackerman’s exhibits have been in almost every province over the last 40 years. She was featured at The Rails End Gallery as early as 1995 and as recently as 2023 with her exhibit “The Library of Dresses”.

“I’m a conceptual artist, making clothes for ghosts from a literary perspective and have a story to tell,” explained the artist. “I am not fascinated by knitting or weaving,” she says, yet many of her installations include fabrics and clothing. In a sense, she was ahead of her time. “Thirty years ago you did not see garments hanging in gallery exhibitions,” she said.

“When I heard Roald Dahl’s words at age eleven, it was the beginning of me understanding creativity,” said Karch-Ackerman, noting her ongoing inspiration she feels from the children’s author. The artist has used clothes as the narrative for her stories, which have been centred on ghosts, for a majority of her career.

In 2001, with her exhibit, “Sweet Breath of Trees”, first showcased at Gallery Stratford in Ontario, she became fascinated by infant mortality; “the concept of babies living in the ground.” Only later would she find some clues as to why she feels drawn to children and dormitories, two huge themes in her lifelong works.

“I have synesthesia, which means I see colours and all the senses are kind-of mixed up,” explained the artist,

see ARTIST page 24

www.mindenhills.ca
In Case of Emergency Dial 911 / After-Hours
Municipal Emergency Dial 1-866-856-3247

THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS
IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

- The 2026 Members’ *Exhibition of the Arts Council* ~ Haliburton Highlands will be on display until July 18. Featuring over 40 local artists, the mixed-media exhibition is presented in partnership with the Art in Public Spaces Committee of the Arts Council ~ Haliburton Highlands, the Agnes Jamieson Gallery, and Fielding Estate Winery. Admission is by donation.
- *Museum of Her*, a new exhibition by artist Michèle Karch-Ackerman will be on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery (Kirkwood Room) until July 18. Admission is by donation.
- *Miijim: Traditional Foods of the Anishinaabeg*, on loan from The MUSE: Lake of the Woods Museum in Kenora, was created in partnership between MUSE, Iskatewizaagegan No. 39 Independent First Nation, and the Natural Resources Institute of the University of Manitoba. The exhibit focuses on miijim - food - and its importance to the body, mind, soul, and heart of the Anishinaabeg. The exhibit will be on display at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre until August 29.
- The Unfinished Objects (UFO) Craft group will be meeting on Friday, June 12 from 1:00 – 3:00 PM in the Welch Room.
- The Minden Hills Museum and Heritage Village, and Nature’s Place is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm for tours and self-guided activities! Stop by Fridays at 11 am for the Toddler Discover Zone, and Saturdays at 11 am for Hands-On activities! All are welcome. Admission is by donation.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

June 11 – Regular Council Meeting
June 18 – Special Council Meeting
June 25 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION

Summer camp registration is open with space still available in some of our weeks of camp. Register online or in person at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena front desk, (705) 286-1260 ext.554, www.mindenhills.ca/recreation.

VISIT ELECTION STAFF AT THE FAIR!

Minden Hills Election staff will have an info booth at the Haliburton County Fair on June 13th! Visit us and learn about 3 ways to vote, voter registration, and important election dates.

PUBLIC NOTICE: CHANGES TO THE TOWNSHIP’S FEES AND CHARGES BY-LAW

Take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a Public Meeting on Thursday, June 25, 2026, during its Regular Council Meeting regarding proposed changes of the Township’s Fees and Charges By-law to:
- Schedule A - Building
- Schedule I – Environmental Water, Sewer and Landfill

The meeting will commence at 9:00 AM in the Council Chambers located at 7 Milne Street, Minden ON. Details of proposed changes will be made available in the coming week.

For more information, please visit our website.

NOTICE OF A SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING COMMUNITY-WIDE AFFORDABILITY AND GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE STUDY

Take Notice there will be a Special Meeting of Council held Thursday, June 18, 2026 at 1:00 PM in the Council Chambers, located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, ON.
The Special Council Meeting is being held for a facilitated session with the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) to gather Council’s input for the Community-wide Affordability and Governance Structure Study.”
The Special Council meeting will be conducted via web conference and in-person. Please visit our website for further details.

7 Milne Street, PO Box 359, Minden, ON K0M 2K0
705-286-1260 Toll Free: 1-844-277-1260 Fax 705-286-4917
Township.Minden.Hills Minden Hills@twpmindenhills @Township_MindenHills

Red Hawks red hot at OFSAA East Regionals Track

Nine Red Hawk athletes qualify for OFSAA Championships

OFSAA East Regional Championships were held at Thousand Islands Secondary School May 28 and 29 in Brockville. Twenty-five Red Hawk athletes competed for a chance to represent the region at the provincial championships in St. Catherine's the following week. Athletes rose to the challenge and achieved many personal bests and added three more school records to the expanding list from this year.

On the track, Jadyn Hamilton was the Hawks' top East Regional finisher, taking second place in the 200m, bettering his time from the previous week to a blistering 23.21. Jadyn also finished fourth in the 400m with a new personal best time of 53.26, qualifying for OFSAA in both events.

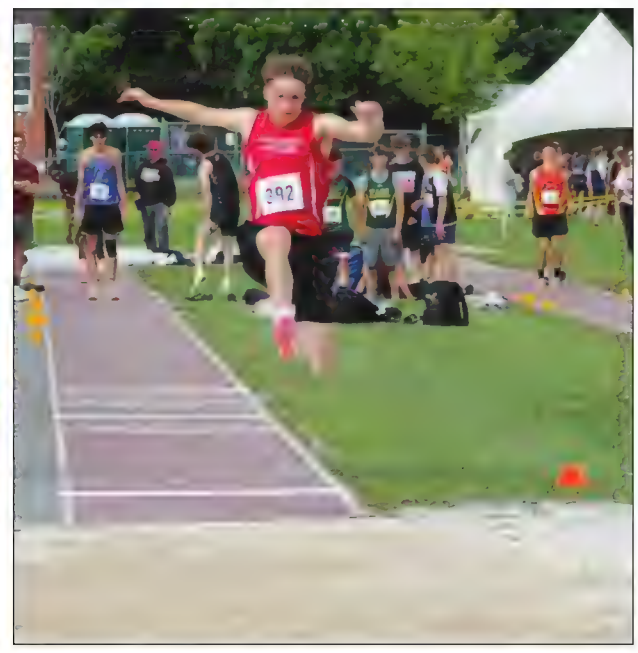
Kendall Park showed she is a force to be reckoned with, setting a new HHSS record in the Novice Girls 200m with her time of 27.12, bettering the mark of 27.19 set by Ali Hicks in 2010. Park finished sixth in this event. Park also continued to drop time from her own record in the 400m, running a very fast 1:01.48 to place 4th in this event and earn another OFSAA qualifying spot for the Hawks.

Annika Gervais did not disappoint in Junior Girls 800m, executing a strategic race to a fourth-place finish and another OFSAA qualifying spot with a new personal best time of 2:23.98. Gervais shattered the previous HHSS Junior Girls 800m set by Emily Turner in 2006 by over four seconds. Gervais also ran a personal best to finish sixth in the 300m hurdles the day before.

Lyla Degeer was also sixth in the 300m hurdles, putting down her best race of the season in this event. Degeer threw a three-metre personal best in the Novice Girls Javelin, landing one at 24.59m to also place sixth in this event.

Strong performances from the distance runners included Ella Gervais continuing to drop her time in the 3000m to 11:40.95; personal bests from Alex Lee and Aren Addison in the 800m, with Lee running his way into eighth place in the Novice Boys 800m and Addison running a huge personal best of 2:10.53. Quinn Hamilton and Duncan Evans-Fockler also ran their best 800m of the season as did Ryder Hudson clocking in a new personal best in the 100m and moving up the sheet.

Violet Humphries dug deep in the 2000m Steeplechase to run a huge personal best time of 7:55.82, well under the HHSS record held by Erika Hoare, but Humphries was disqualified from the race after losing her balance and stepping inside the line exiting the water pit. There were an unprecedented five disqualifications in the Steeplechase.



Left, Jadyn Hamilton checks his competition as he rounds the curve in the 400m. Right, Fynn Gooley leaps to a third-place finish in Senior Boys Long Jump. Below, The Novice Girls 4x100 Relay team celebrates qualifying for OFSAA /submitted

In the field, Luke Gervais launched a discus to 42.66m to earn third place. Fynn Gooley continued to better his own school record in the pits to 6.39m to also finish third in Senior Boys Long Jump as a Grade 11 athlete; and Addyson Parish triple jumped her way into second-place in Senior Girls with a leap of 11.02m. Parish is also competing as a first-year in the tough Senior category.

In relay action, all Red Hawks teams ran to new personal bests moving the baton smoothly around the track. The Novice Girls 4x100m team of Elyse Kernohan, Lyla Degeer, Quinn Hamilton and Kendall Park battled it out to the finish line, with Park's dash and lean just squeaking them into fourth-place for our final OFSAA qualifiers.

In total, nine Red Hawks will represent Haliburton Highlands as part of the best 24 athletes and relay teams in the province at the OFSAA Championships in St. Catherine's which will be held at the newly renovated Niagara Olympic Club.

Submitted by Karen Gervais

We need to talk about the future: Public invited to take part in County study

Beginning this week, residents and business owners across Haliburton County are invited to share their ideas about what municipal governments can do today to build a stronger future for our communities.

The County of Haliburton has launched a community-wide Affordability and Governance Structure Study that will look at ways to simplify government processes and provide better value for taxpayers. The Study Team has developed a community engagement plan with opportunities for as many people as possible to share ideas.

No decision would be made right away. The Study is about getting more information to help inform what we do next. Ultimately, any decisions around the future of Haliburton County will be made by the 2026-2030 councils.

"Through the Study, we want to have an open discussion about how municipalities can deliver services in a way that is practical and affordable for taxpayers while also protecting what makes our communities special," said Dave Burton, Warden, County of Haliburton. "I invite everyone in Haliburton County to take part in the engagement process and help shape our future."

Engagement opportunities include:

A public survey available June 8 to 28. The survey is available now at wadein.haliburtoncounty.ca and should take about ten minutes to complete. Paper copies are also available at local municipal offices and libraries.

Five public open houses for people to share their thoughts and ideas. Each in-person open house will include a presentation from the Study Team that begins 30 minutes after doors open. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and share feedback. Open house dates:

Tuesday, June 23, 2 to 4 p.m. at the Haliburton Legion

Tuesday, June 23, 6 to 8 p.m. at the Lloyd Watson Memorial Community Centre in Wilberforce

Wednesday, June 24, 6 to 8 p.m., Virtual Open House

Thursday, June 25, 2 to 4 p.m. at the Dorset Recreation Centre in Algonquin Highlands

Thursday, June 25, 6 to 8 p.m. at the Minden Community Centre

For the virtual open house, visit wadein.haliburtoncounty.ca to register. Registration is not required to attend the in-person open house sessions.

Submitted

Kelsey Redman, Lizzy Clarke, Laurie Sweig, Jocelyn Regina, and Bethany Houghton have joined together to create the Blue Jay Cafe, an open and accessible coffee-house style music offering, catered to anyone wanting to connect with like-minded people. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Blue Jay Cafe welcomes all

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

Something magical is brewing in the Haliburton Highlands.

And like many ideas that evolve and grow in this community, before it was brewing as a thought, it started with the brewing of coffee.

The Blue Jay Cafe is the brainchild of Laurie Sweig. Many would recognize Sweig's name from her efforts around the Haliburton Highlands Harmony Project, a singer/songwriter initiative that tied together musicians from across the county to celebrate their skills.

But once the project had wrapped, Sweig was already looking for something more. "I wanted to bring joy to our community through the magic of art," she said, during a recent meeting of Blue Jay Cafe organizers last week. "And it is joy. We're bringing people together."

The concept of accessible music was something that had been needling Sweig for some time. While she noted that there was a wealth of opportunities for singers and songwriters to engage, the opportunity to add diversity and versatility could be limiting.

When Sweig met up with a new local to the area, Lizzy Clarke, she shared that Clarke was complimentary to what was here. "She told me that she thinks this community is incredible," said Sweig. "She called it Nashville North."

The two met last fall for a coffee, and started brainstorming ideas for how to make music more accessible for those who want to participate. Shortly after, they connected with Jocelyn Regina, who originally hails from Haliburton but had spent the past few years in Toronto before returning home. "Laurie asked me if I had gone out to an open mic," recalled Regina, "and I hadn't. And she asked: 'what's stopping you?'"

Like many mothers, Regina found it difficult to leave the house at bedtime; the usual hours for live music. Bethany Houghton agreed. "I spent 12 years not going out to music because I'm a mom," the musician and teacher shared.

So the small but mighty team of women began to assemble with one mandate in mind: making music accessible to everyone.

They looped in Kelsey Redman, who is the owner of Redmans Records in downtown Haliburton. Redman is a graduate of Haliburton School of Art and Design, and has called the community home for the past 15 years. She is diligently working to make her shop a destination for music lovers, whether that be for instruments, gear, albums or tickets, she is dedicated to connecting the dots for all things music.

With Sweig, Clarke, Regina, Houghton, and Redman, the powerhouse group of women formed the Blue Jay Cafe. A spin on the iconic Bluebird Cafe in Nashville, the event aims to unite music lovers of all ages and abilities from across the county.

"We're trying to offer a window into what's going on in music," said Clarke. "For everyone. People who are new to the community, cottagers, everyone."

While the whole group has a foundation of understanding around music, they share the common denominator of wanting to bring arts to the forefront in the community. "We're very experimental," said Clarke. "We have more ideas than plans, which is the way it should be."

With two successful, day-time coffee houses offered so far, the group is eager to continue running programs for all ages. Kids, teens, veteran musicians, and first-timers. "I am thankful to (the Blue Jay Cafe) for providing the safe and welcoming space for everyone, especially the youth to shake off those nerves and grow more comfortable performing and sharing their talents," said Katie Appleton, one of the mothers of a young performer at the last event. "The opportunity to learn by enjoying a variety of music from others is a gift and an opportunity that doesn't always happen very often. I really hope this project continues, as I can already see it becoming something very special for our community."

To contact Sweig about upcoming Blue Jay Cafes, pop-ups, or conversations, reach out to bluejaycafehali@gmail.com.

With their day-time offerings, the organizers have opted to commit to holiday Mondays for the events. As the group continues to grow and evolve, future updates will be shared. "Our priorities are accessibility and inclusivity," said Sweig. "As long as we meet that, we can't go wrong."

135 Maple Ave., Haliburton
Tel: (705) 457-1740 ext. 659
www.dysartetal.ca

Public Notice

The Municipality of Dysart will pause the acceptance of construction and demolition materials from the West Guilford waste disposal site for approximately 12 weeks while we complete some required work on site. Operating hours at the Haliburton waste disposal site will be 6 days per week, Tuesday to Sunday effective July 3rd. For updates please visit our website dysartetal.ca, our waste wizard app or one of our social media channels.

135 Maple Ave., Haliburton
(705) 457-1740
www.dysartetal.ca

REQUEST FOR TENDERS
Drainage Improvements and Foundation Repairs at Haliburton Medical Centre

The Municipality of Dysart et al is requesting tenders submissions from qualified contractors for drainage improvements and foundation repair work at the Haliburton Medical Centre.

Tenders must be received on or before 1 p.m. locale time on Wednesday, June 17, 2026.

Bid documents can be found on Bids and Tenders https://dysartetal.bidsandtenders.ca/Module/Tenders/en

PUMP IT UP PROJECT
CALL FOR ARTWORK!

Dysart et al Cultural Resources Committee is calling out to artists to submit 2D visual artwork, either existing or new, to be used as an image for a vinyl wrap for a sewage pumping station located in the Village of Haliburton.

AWARD OF $400

Theme: Nature and the Outdoors.
Submission deadline: Friday, June 26th.
Applicants **MUST** be under 25

Scan for Submission Form

DYSART ET AL

Questions:
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Local Canoe FM host wins big

IVY KATZ

Journalist

Haliburton county's community radio station Canoe FM is recognized for its versatile and quality programming. It's fair to say a good radio station will be reflected in the hosts and programming they offer. Recently, the National Community Radio Association (NCRA) awarded Canoe FM's host Lorne Van Sinclair the award for Best Music Programming for *BackBeat Radio* in the "Blues or similar" category.

Van Sinclair hosts the show on Sunday's at 10 a.m., featuring an eclectic mix of blues music. If you're thinking that blues music is not your cup of tea, you may think again after you've heard Van Sinclair's award-winning show. *BackBeat* is a curated a mix of 1930s, 1940s, country/bluegrass genres with newer artists that have that classic, analog sound. "I've always been more interested in the underbelly, the more obscure tunes, rather than the big hits," said Van Sinclair, yet these tunes should be the big hits. The underbelly is really the foundation from which all good things stem. Indeed, when it comes to popular music, traditionally known as rock and roll, some would argue that all rock and pop comes from jazz and blues.

Since age three, Van Sinclair's first love was music. He has channelled that affinity into a lifelong career. In his twenties, the music aficionado worked as a technician behind the booth, setting up microphones, and contributed ideas to on-air programming at CBC radio in the 1970s "CBC radio at the time was a hotbed of creativity and inspiration; it was a great place to work," he said.

Van Sinclair spent ten years on Saturday Night Oldies with Don Daynard, and hosted programs on Toronto Community Stations CKLN and CIUT in the 1980s. He ventured into owning the successful Bluenote Records at Queen and Broadview in Toronto for 10 years. He ran The Musical Collectapples (yes, it was "apples" so they could get the website name) for 35 years, becoming one of the biggest flea-market type shows in Canada. "It was quite the institution," recalls Van Sinclair. "We had regulars who would come for generations; they brought their kids, and their kids were coming as adults. Unfortunately, it got killed by Covid but it was great fun while we did it!"

Many things have changed over the years, but Van Sinclair believes that now, community radio fills that creative void. The host credits the "active participation of the community, from listeners to sponsors to everybody," noting how hard Canoe FM and their volunteers work to make top-notch programming that is easily at par with the bigger stations.

Van Sinclair submitted his application for the recent award mere minutes before the midnight deadline, pulling the submission together in under two hours. The NCRA is an alliance of 140 community and campus radio stations across Canada, and distributes community radio content, hosts conventions and the annual Community Radio Broadcasting and Online (CRABO) awards, explained Van Sinclair. This year the show was hosted at the CBC headquarters in downtown Toronto.

Lorne Van Sinclair holds his recent CRABO win for his Canoe FM Radio show *BackBeat*. /photo submitted

In addition to airing across Canada via NCRA, *BackBeat* also airs internationally on approximately 30 stations and online platforms across the United States, Germany, and beyond.

As an avid supporter of Canadian artists; "musicians who need to be heard and are not often heard on the radio," said the host. One thing Van Sinclair does not support are quotas, referencing the 35 per cent Canadian content quota mandate. "I don't play something just because it is Canadian and I have to hit my 35 per cent, I'll play something because it is good." This could be the secret to his excellent programming; Van Sinclair curates the show based on talented musicians he thinks need to be heard. It just so happens a lot of that talent is Canadian, but this is not a surprise.

Canada is known internationally as a breeding ground for artists, but most of our home-grown talent hemorrhages out to the U.S.A. and other countries. Often a Canadian artist must leave their home soil and become recognized abroad, before that same artist can get airtime on the larger Canadian legacy media stations. Van Sinclair is giving a platform to talented Canadian musicians, regardless of whether those Canadian artists have "made it" big on the international scene.

Tune into 100.9 FM or listen online at CanoeFM.com

Visit Lorne Van Sinclair's website BackBeatRadio.com and find links for the latest 10 episodes aired on Canoe FM, updated weekly.

Transport Canada / Transports Canada

Canadian Navigable Waters Act

The Municipality of Dysart et al ..... hereby gives notice that an
(Owner – Individual or company name)

application has been made to the Navigable Waters Registry, pursuant to the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* for approval of the work described herein and its site and plans.

Pursuant to paragraph 10(1)(b) of the said Act,
The Municipality of Dysart et al ..... has deposited with the Minister of Transport,
(Owner – Individual or company name)

on the on-line Common Project Search Registry (http://cps.canada.ca/) under the registry number 14931, a description of the following work, its site and plans:

- The project includes removal of existing truss bridge and partial removal of abutments;
- Construction of new abutments behind the existing;
- Launching of new modular bridge;
- Reconstruction of approach embankments, including some retaining structures;
- Installation of new code compliant barrier system and guide rail; and
- Site cleanup and restoration.

in, on, over, under, through or

across..... the Drag River .....
(name of the river, the lake or other navigable water)

at ..... Head Lake Rotary Park in Haliburton .....
(name of place where work is to be located)

in front of lot number ..... Lot 17, Concession 8, County of Haliburton .....
(or at the foot of such a street, etc.) (see note below)

Comments regarding the effect of this work on marine navigation can be sent through the Common Project Search site mentioned above under the Comment section (search by the above referenced number) or if you do not have access to the internet, by sending your comments directly to:

Director of Public Works
Municipality of Dysart et al
135 Maple Avenue PO Box 389, Haliburton Ontario, Canada K0M 1S0

Posted at..... Haliburton, Ontario .....this ...12..... day of ..... May ....., 20 ...26...
(City, Province) (day) (Month) (year)
Municipality of Dysart et al .....
(full name of owner)

Transport Canada (TC) will not make your comments on a project available to the public on the online public registry. However, any information related to a work is considered as unclassified public record and could be accessible upon legal request. As such, the information and records provided should not contain confidential or sensitive information. If you want to provide confidential or sensitive information that you think should not be made public, please contact TC before submitting it.

NOTE: The subject site (Head Lake Pedestrian Bridge) is located at 45°2'48.8"N 78°30'44.5"W (45.046897, -78.512351).

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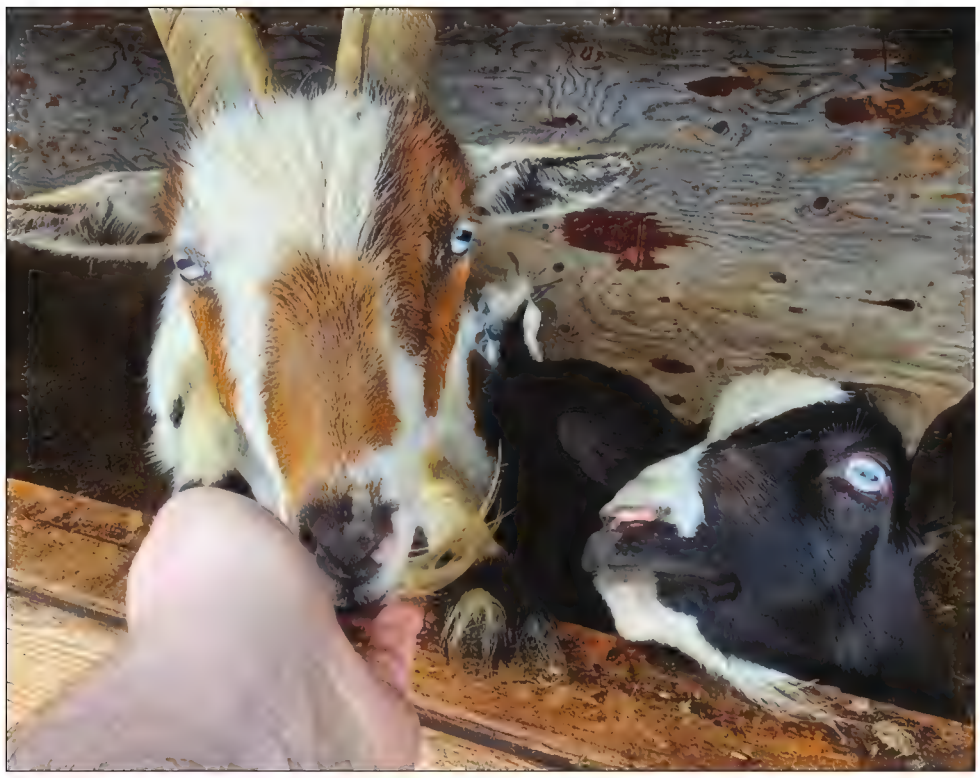

Snowflakes in June

Snowflake Meadows Animal Rescue hosted their Magical Festival Fundraiser this past Saturday at their location on Ritchie Falls Road. Despite the rain, many came out to support the local rescue, with face painting, vendors, pony rides, a petting zoo, and plenty of auction and door prizes, the event raised $9,400 for their upcoming kennel project. "I am incredibly honoured and grateful to have received such amazing support from our community at the Snowflake Meadows Magical Festival Fundraiser, rain and all," said Kristyn Begbie, the owner of the animal rescue. "It truly was a magical and memorable day! I had a blast running around in my sock feet, greeting all the smiling faces. The food from our vendors was absolutely delicious! Mortimer the tortoise was thrilled to be out meeting everyone and snapping selfies. All the barn animals are now pooped, and the puppies are completely exhausted!" Begbie noted that based on the success of this year, the event will be held over two days next summer. For further updates on the facility, follow Snowflake Meadows on Facebook and Instagram. /THOMAS SMITH staff

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YARD/GARAGE SALES

Massive Street and Moving Sale. **Friday, June 12 and Saturday the 13. 10:00a.m. – 8:00p.m.** Green Gables Road off 35, North of Norland. You'll find electronics, tools, appliances, crafts, pickles, life jackets, canning supplies, bedding, towels, books, kitchen items, outdoor chairs, indoor storage units, screened in eating tent, seniors equipment, vintage, school supplies, snow blower, outdoor gardening, etc. Let's make a Deal!!

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Wanted: scrap cars and trucks. Cash paid. Please call **705-286-3758** or cell **249-332-1212**

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- Basic phone skills

We do thank all applicants in advance, however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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THANK YOU

The Altar Society of Our Lady of Fatima Church in Minden, would like to congratulate **Dollo's Foodland and the Dollo family members on their 70th anniversary of local business in Minden.**

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We, the family and friends of Ed Burke, the "Old Fart," wish to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to everyone who offered kindness, support, prayers, flowers, cards, donations, and messages of sympathy during our recent loss.

We are deeply grateful to all who attended the funeral service and helped us celebrate Ed's life and memory. He will be remembered for his sense of humour, his willingness to help the less fortunate, and his devotion to his family, friends, and country.

A special thank you to the Royal Canadian Legion, the Ontario Provincial Police (Minden Detachment), Monk's Funeral Home, the caregivers at Haliburton Hospital, and all those who assisted with the arrangements and service.

Ed will be lovingly remembered and sadly missed by all who knew him.
We love you Old Fart!

– Sheila Burke, Denise Douville, Janelle Nesbitt & families

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7	4	2	6	5	1	9	8	3
3	6	1	8	7	9	2	5	4
8	2	9	7	4	5	3	1	6
6	3	4	1	9	8	7	2	5
1	7	5	2	6	3	4	9	8
2	1	6	3	8	4	5	7	9
4	5	7	9	2	6	8	3	1
9	8	3	5	1	7	6	4	2

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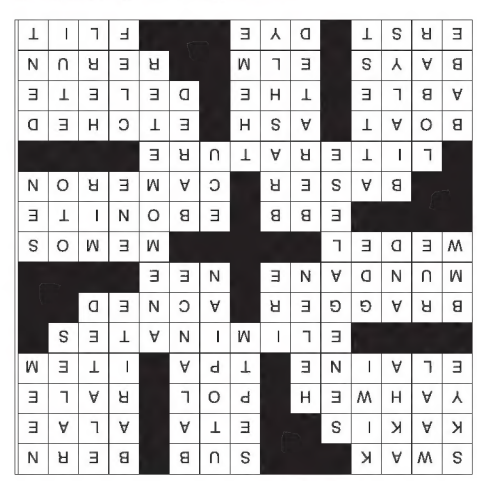

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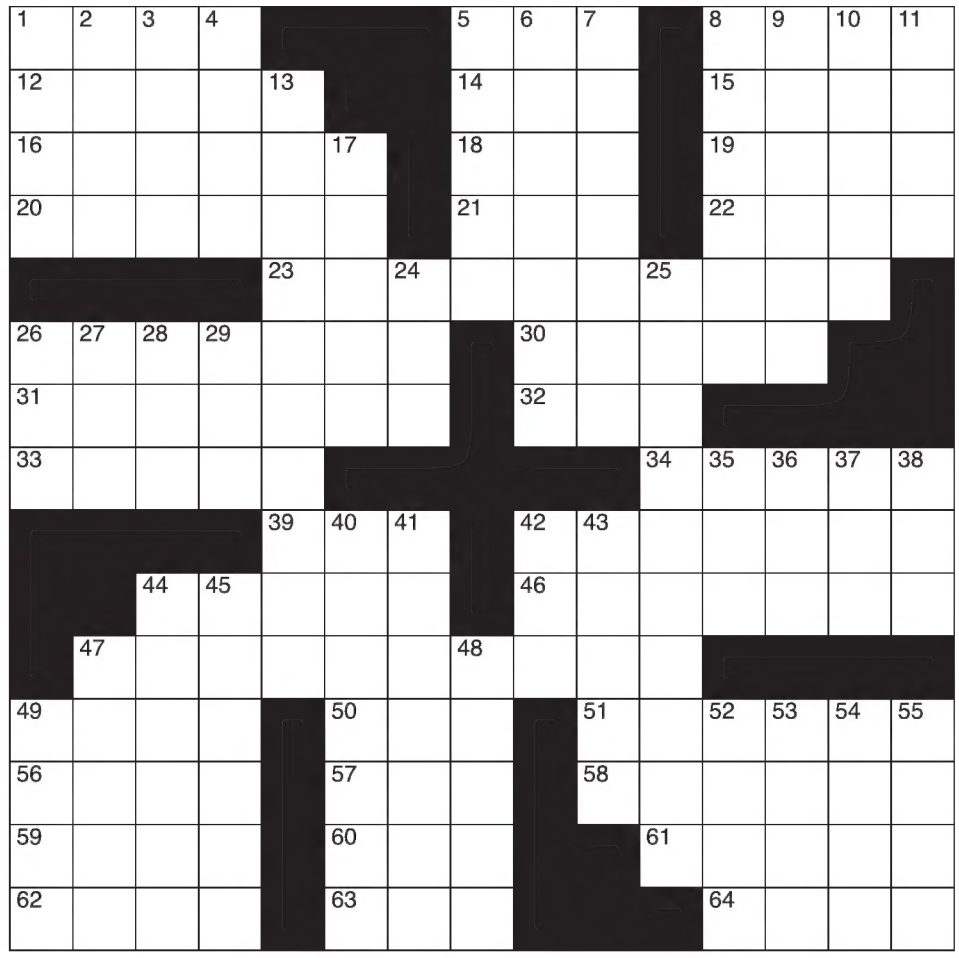
	9		4			1		7
	4			5		9		
	6							
8					5		1	
6		4	1					
			2	6				8
2			3	8			7	
	5		9					
								2

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!



CLUES ACROSS
1. Sealed with a kiss
5. Large sandwich
8. Swiss city
12. Japanese persimmons
14. When you hope to get somewhere
15. Wings
16. A name of God
18. Elected official (informal)
19. Abnormal breathing
20. "Seinfeld" character
21. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
22. Something for sale
23. Gets rid of
26. One who touts
30. Blemished
31. Less than exciting
32. Born of
33. N. German town
34. Notes
39. Move away from land
42. Vulcanite
44. More ignoble
46. Child actor Kirk
47. Written works
49. Sea vessel
50. Residue
51. Engraved
56. Having sufficient skill
57. One and only
58. Erase
59. Broad inlets
60. Nightmarish street
61. Play again
62. Formerly (archaic)
63. Add a color to change the color
64. Move swiftly and lightly

CLUES DOWN
1. Scottish island
2. River in the Netherlands
3. Asian people
4. Fuzzy fruit
5. Ninth month (abbr.)
6. An idealistic social reformer
7. What you owe
8. Colorless mineral
9. Overjoyed
10. Rattling breaths
11. Tropical Old World tree
13. A citizen of Senegal
17. Greek mythological beauty
24. Wrath
25. Instrument to measure wind speed
26. Luxury carmaker
27. Bitterly regret
28. Not or
29. Google certification
35. Midway between north-east and east
36. Space station
37. Relating to the ears
38. Congressman
40. Yelled at
41. Rudely assertive
42. Defunct European money
43. Shared one's soul
44. Onion rolls
45. A way to state clearly
47. Relating to a lobe
48. Underlying message
49. Hollywood pig
52. Indicates pitch
53. Filament of a feather
54. Small ornamental ladies' bag for small articles
55. Diminish

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ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

Jess Wallace and Mike Bradley are the HHSS Athletes of the Year. The award was announced at the annual athletic banquet held Tuesday evening at the Legion Hall in Haliburton. Wallace was honoured for her outstanding achievements as the most valuable player in senior field hockey, badmintoin, and volley ball. As well she received an award of excellence for highest athletic participation and a major athletic award. Bradley was honoured for his participation in senior football where he was awarded two most valuable player honours and a similar acolade in track and field.

Lower taxes entice Galway ratepayers to look north

by Jerry Grozelle

Galway-Cavendish Township residents are ready to join Haliburton County if a group of 120 people who turned out for an emergency meeting Sunday at the Galway Hall is representative of fellow ratepayers.

More than 90 per cent of those present at the meeting were Galway residents (permanent and seasonal) and by the time the meeting was over they voted emphatically to pursue amalgamation with Haliburton County.

The emergency meeting was called in response to a Peterborough County proposal which was submitted to the provincial Ministry of Municipal Affairs. The proposal asks the province to force the Municipality of Galway-Cavendish to amalgamate with Harvey Township, a township to the east.

Peter Charters, president of the White Lake Ratepayers' Association and a strong proponent of a Galway-Cavendish (G-C) move to Haliburton County, predicts that a merger with

(more on page 3)

O'Reilly wins in a close contest

by Andrew Milne

Liberal incumbent John O'Reilly survived something of a squeaker last week.

The final unofficial vote came down to 18,093 votes for O'Reilly, versus 16,974 for Reform newcomer Pat Dunn, a difference of only 1,119 votes.

Trailing the leaders were PC candidate Lorne Chester, with 14,166, the NDP's Rick Denyer, with 3,524, and Canadian Action Party contender Charles Olito, with 501 votes.

O'Reilly's team, tallying the results in Lindsay as the votes came in, had a late night, and a tense first hour as early results see-sawed between the two leading candidates.

The first results, Minden's poll one, reported just before 10 p.m., putting O'Reilly slightly ahead of Dunn, at 103 votes to 83. By 10:15, however, with a few thousand votes counted, Dunn was leading by a slim margin of 50.

When the contest seemed finally resolved, shortly after midnight, and his challengers were en route to congratulate him, O'Reilly's comments roughly mirrored the national party's stance — he spoke of staying the course: deficit reduction as a priority, with some hope held out that the government might run a slightly more traditionally Liberal administration over the coming term.

"My main concerns are continued economic growth... the move towards fiscal responsibility, and making sure that

(more on page 3)

Successful Liberal incumbent, John O'Reilly, left, accepted the best wishes of PC candidate Lorne Chester after the votes were tallied last Monday evening.

Minden ready to welcome N. America's top choppers

Once again Minden is preparing to welcome lumber jacks and jills from across North America.

The occasion is the fifth annual Ontario Timbersport Championship. The event provides an opportunity to see some of the best in North America participate in a variety of competitions. Throughout the day spectators will be able to watch 16 different events including traditional competitions like axe throwing and pole climbing and more modern activities like modified chainsaw contests which Timberfest chairman Ted Anthon describes as, "a souped-up chain saw which melts through logs in less than two seconds."

The day begins at 9 a.m. with the axe throwing competition. Ceremonies to mark this year's event will take place at noon when Victoria/Haliburton MPP Chris Hodgson will join Reeve Jeanne Anthon to officially welcome the spectators and competitors.

According to Ted Anthon, close to 50 competitors are expected this year, including last year's over-all champion Dave Jewett. "Dave holds several world records and we're looking forward to watching him in action again this year," Anthon said.

"In response to requests from the competitors we have added a new event this year," Anthon said. "We have included a women's Swede saw event to the line-up."

Competitors are expected from across Canada and the United States as well as one coming from New Zealand.

"This is a community event in which we welcome competitors from across the country to our village," Anthon added. "We couldn't do it without the support of our sponsors and the citizens of the surrounding area. In the past we have always received rave reviews from our competitors for the welcome they received here," he concluded.

Anyone interested in helping the organizers during the day is invited to attend a volunteers' meeting this Wednesday evening, 7:30 p.m. in the Anson, Hindon and Minden council chambers.

Drivers should note that Minden's Main Street, from the bank corner to the Novel Ideas Book Store corner, will be closed to traffic during the Saturday competitions.

A schedule and other details of the Minden Timbersport Festival can be found in a separate supplement included with this edition of *The Times*.

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Artist looks to the past while capturing stories

from page 13

during her public talk at the Minden gallery this past weekend. "I have this image in my head of stardust orbs of light that I juggle, and I start with one idea, then I add another idea, and it takes a long time. It is like the stardust is dropping threads, and then it takes me a while to figure out how to braid the threads." She noted that this style has helped guide her research over the last decade, to pull together the threads of her ancestral connections which have culminated in her newest exhibit.

Karch-Ackerman's "Museum of Her" exhibit comes out of one of the most difficult times in her life; the prolonged death of both her parents, and one of the most interesting connections in Karch-Ackerman's life. She discovered a distant connection to Mary Shelley, author of *Frankenstein*, as well as poets Percy Shelley and Lord Byron through her distant relative, Edward Trelawney, who was known to be close friends with them in their later stages of life.

"My great-great-great-great-grandfather was William Henry Draper" explains Karch-Ackerman. "Draper street in Toronto is named after him. He was the pre-confederate leader of Upper Canada, before Sir John A. MacDonald."

"Draper's wife was named Augusta, and in the Canadian Encyclopedia, it says that Augusta was proud of her lifelong friendship with Edward Trelawney," said Karch-Ackerman. "Edward Trelawney was a wild figure, who was known to be a pirate in those days, and he was close friends with Mary and Percy Shelley and Lord Byron. My Aunt Augusta was friends with Edward for 70 years, since the age of 17. She visited him in Sussex, England, when she was 80 and he came to visit her in Rosedale (a suburb of Toronto) when he was younger. She emigrated to Canada when she was 22 years old and she kept in touch with him through letters," explained Karch-Ackerman.

The New York Public library has letters from Edward Trelawney, and a book titled *The Last Days of Shelley and Byron*, notes Karch-Ackerman. In the Encyclopedia Brittanica, Trelawney is credited as an "author and adventurer, the friend of Percy Bysshe Shelley and Lord Byron, whom he portrayed brilliantly in his books."

Michèle Karch-Ackerman stands inside her new exhibit "Museum of Her" running at the Agnes Jamieson Gallery until July 18. /IVY KATZ staff

"It was Trelawney who taught the Shelleys and Byron to sail," said Karch-Ackerman. Unfortunately, Percy Shelley died in a fatal shipwreck in 1822 in Italy. "Trelawney was the one who organized the cremation on the beach, and this is also documented, permits were needed back in those days as well," explains Karch-Ackerman. Legend has it that after the cremation, "Trelawney plucked the heart from Percy's chest cavity remains, and Mary kept it in her desk the rest of her life," said the artist. Trelawney's involvement in the funeral is cited in many sources, as the death of Percy was very tragic at the time.

"When Trelawney came to visit my Aunt Augusta in Rosedale, Mary Shelley was already well-known, Frankenstein was published when Mary was only 19 years old," said Karch-Ackerman. She imagines Trelawney and her Aunt Augusta must have had conversations about the Shelleys and Byron.

Karch-Ackerman does not channel ghosts; it is a creative adaptation which allows her to enter a "flow state" and tap into energies that surround us. "I have a well-exercised brain in the arts, I am very intuitive. All my artwork has dealt with ghosts but I don't think of myself as a medium … I wrote the letters in a flow state," she said of the Mary Shelley letters in the Minden exhibit. "Often my shows are serious," she continued, "but this show has some humour."

On the surface, the subject matter may seem dark, but Karch-Ackerman explained that it is not. Her works have been inadvertently drawing attention to our Canadian history, where we come from, and realities that continue to pop up in mainstream media. The artist sees her work as being relatable. "Doing work about ourselves is good because people can respond; it is introspective and reflective," she said.

Karch-Ackerman invites people to sit down at the desk in the exhibit and read through all of the numbered letters. "It takes about an hour and a half," she said of the correspondence between herself and the ghost of Mary Shelley. By reading through the letters, Karch-Ackerman's ancestral story of these connections will reveal itself, and by that lend deeper meaning to the exhibit, interesting facts about our Canadian history, and how all of our stories are interconnected.

"Museum of Her" runs until July 18 at the Agnes Jamieson Gallery at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre.